



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

March 23, 2011

Ken Johnston, Agent  
Las Pilitas Resources, LLC  
P.O. Box 875  
Santa Margarita, CA, 93453

Subject: Permitting Process Update for the Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry Conditional Use Permit and Reclamation Plan; DRC2009-00025

Dear Mr. Johnston:

The purpose of this letter is to provide acknowledgement of the receipt of payment for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Oster/Las Pilitas Quarry project and to give you and the project applicant an update on the permitting process. Specifically, now that payment and a signed cost estimate form have been received, staff will work on the preparation of a contract with the EIR consultant, Benchmark Resources, for review by County Counsel. Once a draft contract has been finalized, it will be sent to Benchmark Resources for their signature, sent back to Counsel for their signature, and put on the Board of Supervisors Consent Agenda for the final approval prior to commencing with the preparation of the EIR.

It is important to note that mining is only allowed after approval of a CUP and Reclamation Plan. As we have previously discussed, the CUP and Reclamation Plan are discretionary permits and can be approved or denied by the Planning Commission and appealed to the Board of Supervisors. The Las Pilitas Quarry is a controversial project with potential for significant environmental impacts. Even with completion of an EIR, it is uncertain whether the use permit will be approved or denied, and there is *no guarantee* that your proposal will be approved.

We are committed to processing the project in a fair and timely manner. However, please be advised of the uncertainties noted above. If you have any questions concerning this update, please contact John Nall at 781-5010.

Sincerely,

Jason H. Giffen, Director

CC: Danny Edward Oster & Oster Living Trust  
Mike Cole; Mike Cole Farms  
Steve Souza; Souza Construction

For Planning Department reference only:  
Letter from Jason Giffen

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